(c) The Plant Operators were repeatedly persuaded to join back for duty and they finally resumed duties on 26-6-92.

Equipments and machinery purchased for Tarapur and other projects

3073. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received a representation dated 14th December, 1989 containing details of misdeeds in the Nuclear Power Corporation Limited since September, 1987; if so, the details thereof indicating enquiry made or proposed to be made in the matter;

(b) whether it is a fact that the attention of the Prime Minister was successively drawn to the matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that equipments and machinery worth Rs. 3,000 crores were purchased for Tarapur, Kota and Kaiga projects in anticipation of the clearance of these projects;

(d) if so, whether these equipments were put to use;

(e) whether CAG conducted any audit of the purchases; and

(f) whether Government would consider constitution of a Parliamentary Committee to look into it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Two letters, one dated 14th December, 1989 and another dated 25th September, 1990, were received pointing out certain irregularities in the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation. These were duly examined.

(c) and (d) During the period from 1986 to 1991, advance action for procurement of certain critical and long delivery components and equipments for 6x500 MWe units and 4x220 MWe units at a cost of about Rs. 760 crores, was taken, with the approval of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Government, with a view to reduce the gestation time. This amounts to less than 10 per cent of the total outlay on these projects. Subsequent developments such as severe resource crunch resulting in paucity of funds for new projects, the high interest rate of market borrowings, etc. introduced a delay in the commencement of new projects. Corrective action by way of slowing down the advance action wherever possible has been initiated. All equipments and components will eventually be installed and used in the projects.

(e) and (f) The Nuclear Power Corporation has been subjected to regular audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and its working is also subject to review by the existing Committees of Parliament.

Setting up of Fertilizer Plants

3074. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1966 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th May, 1992 and state:

(a) the number of new fertilizer plants to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan period and their capacities to meet the demand of extra fertilizer;

(b) the quantity of fertilizer to be imported and the amount of foreign exchange required for that in five years;

(c) the cost of installing new plants and the foreign exchange required to get the amount of extra fertilizer that could be produced by renovating the old plants;

(d) whether it is less costly to renovate the old plants than to instal new plants to get the same amount of extra fertilisers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Subject to availability of natural gas